

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

1147

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Background Paper for Meeting With Ambassador Korry

FROM:

Chief, WHD

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

17 SEP 1969

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. Deputy Director for Plans

2.

3.

4. Director of Central Intelligence

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

Declassified and
Approved for Release
July 2000

19 SEP 1969

get [redacted]
see that we have
chron's (memos) copy

FORM 3-62

610

USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

☒

SECRET

☐

CONFIDENTIAL

☐

INTERNAL USE ONLY

☐

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

17 SEP 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
VIA : Deputy Director for Plans
SUBJECT : Background Paper for Meeting With
Ambassador Korry

1. The Chilean presidential election will take place in September 1970. Current information indicates that it will be a three-way race involving former President Jorge Alessandri, with rightist and independent support; Rademiro Tomic, former Ambassador to the U.S. and candidate of the ruling Christian Democratic Party (PDC) who is seeking leftist support; and Socialist Senator Salvador Allende, who will run for the fourth time as the candidate of the FRAP (coalition of Communists and Socialists). The Santiago Station and Ambassador Korry are in agreement that the election of Allende would be detrimental to U.S. interests in Chile and in the hemisphere. They have also agreed that the U.S. Government should not support any presidential candidate and that political action should be confined to weakening the FRAP.

2. In the pre-electoral negotiations which characterize the Chilean political scene, the Marxists are experiencing difficulty in forming the FRAP alliance which has represented them in past elections. There are serious differences between the two major FRAP partners, the Communists and Socialists, particularly on the question of what political parties and movements should be included in the united or popular front. The pro-Castro Socialists insist on the inclusion of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MLR - a left-wing terrorist group) and on the exclusion of the Popular Socialist Union (PSU - a splinter Socialist party) and the Marxist-led Radical Party (PR). The Communists want both the PR and the PSU

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

included in a broad popular front. In addition, Socialist encouragement of violence and public support of the MIR have angered Communists who believe that this policy invites government repression which will ultimately work to the detriment of the Communists. Among Socialist rank and file, there is considerable distrust of Communist motives and the belief that the Communists have historically used the PS for their own ends and that they are not truly revolutionary.

3. The Socialists have again nominated Senator Allende as their presidential candidate, although this time he did not have the full support of his party. In addition to Socialist disagreements with the Communists, members of the PS itself are divided over how revolutionary the party should be and most of the PS leaders view Allende as bourgeois. The Communists, for tactical reasons, are now planning to name their own candidate. It is expected that, despite the differences dividing the Socialists and Communists, as well as the various splinter groups, every effort will be made to constitute the FRAP whose combined percentage of the total vote (based on previous election results) would be a formidable 30-40%.

4. Another major candidate, Radomiro Tomic, was the unity choice of the PDC. The latter in the last few months has lost some of its most revolutionary elements to the Popular Action Unity Movement (MAPU). There are indications that Tomic is not receiving wholehearted support from certain sectors of the PDC, particularly those closely associated with President Frei. Tomic has backed away from his previous insistence on popular front support by redefining popular unity in terms that transcend political parties. Tomic has been rebuffed by the Marxist political parties and thus now seeks non-formal leftist support. Tomic's remarks on the replacement of the capitalist and neo-capitalist system in Chile have concerned many moderates and independents. The PDC electoral strength is estimated at between 30 and 35%.

5. The last major candidate, Jorge Alessandri, has not yet declared his candidacy but has been proclaimed by the National Party (PN). Alessandri is now the target of attacks by opposition parties. Current information indicates

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

- 3 -

that Alessandri, whose support crosses party lines, would be the winner if the election were held today.

6. Against the above political background, the Station is using a number of covert action operations to weaken the FRAP. Ambassador Korry is aware that the Station is supporting a dissident Radical group [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The Station is also involved in producing and disseminating anti-FRAP, anti-Allende propaganda [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] We are also in contact with members of the National Party. Santiago Station is also using its other political action and propaganda activities, which generally support over-all objectives, to mount attacks on the FRAP.

7. In conclusion, Santiago Station and Ambassador Korry have agreed on a hands-off policy with regard to the Chilean presidential election. Political action is confined to attacking the FRAP and no support is contemplated to any presidential candidate. The Station will resist any requests for support from the right in Chile and it believes that Tomic, who is still trying to gain the support of non-Allende leftists, will not seek U.S. Government support. Ambassador Korry, however, is committed to the PDC and it is conceivable that, should Tomic's position vis a vis leftist support become more moderate, he will seek to support Tomic's candidacy. The Station has no mechanisms which could render covert support to Tomic and has stressed the desirability of permitting Chilean voters to choose their president without outside assistance.

[REDACTED]
William V. Bree
Chief
Western Hemisphere Division

cc: DDCI

~~SECRET~~